



Climate Smart Kingston
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

Meeting Notes
Thursday, May 22, 2014
City Hall Conference Room 1
3:00-4:30pm

Present: Michael Courtney, Jeff Domanski, Melissa Everett (phone), Emilie Hauser, Julie Noble (coordinator), Casey Schwarz, Brian Seche, Gregg Swanzy

I. Climate Smart Kingston Formalization

At the time of the meeting on May 22nd, the resolution to formalize Climate Smart Kingston had not moved through Common Council yet.

II. Technical Assistance from VHB

Julie mentioned that VHB has offered to provide another round of technical assistance to Kingston. Julie had spoken with Angela Vincent about the scope of the Custom Service Strategy and options for assistance based on the CSK 2014 Goals. The group discussed that perhaps VHB could provide assistance with evaluation of Kingston for suitability and qualification for the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. It was mentioned that Aaron Bennett at the County may have gathered some info for this already. Julie will follow up with VHB.

III. Climate Smart Kingston 2014 Goals

a. Reporting and Communications

i. Marketing/Communications Strategy

The upcoming Cool City Café was discussed and how press for this event would go out shortly. An important tool at this event will be to have sign ups for each Climate Smart Kingston Strategy, a timeline for each strategy and how people can get involved.

ii. Renewables Strategy (*Melissa Everett*)

Melissa updated the group that Sustainable Hudson Valley has CUNY support and Max Joel available to communities to assist with Renewables Strategies. Max Joel is the Program Manager for the Community Solar NY program of NYSERDA. The plan would be to work on solar permitting and purchasing mechanisms in the first 3-4 month Phase 1 and then engagement in Phase 2. She mentioned that the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities has funding and that CUNY has retained Meister Consultants Group, based in Boston, who will help Kingston as well. Funding options were discussed, particularly CFA funding, of which the city would need to apply through Category 1, which is ongoing and could then couple it with CFA funding Categories 2 and 3 for more funding.

There was a discussion about group purchasing/solar co-ops and Julie mentioned that there may be interest from some local community members to start looking into group purchasing, which could be a pilot for the city if realized.

iii. Energy Advocates (*Michael Courtney*)

Michael updated that a training module has been created for Energy Advocates and that info and literature is available through RUPCO. He mentioned that RUPCO needs to have a partnership and resources from the city as well. Two training for Energy Advocates have been

conducted but new advocates have not been actively recruited yet. Michael mentioned the importance of the formalization of Climate Smart Kingston for these partnerships.

iv. Broadway Corridor Streetscape Grant and Sewage Treatment Plant Energy Reduction Design Collaboration (*Gregg Swanzey*)

Gregg offered that there is no action to be taken as of yet on these projects by Climate Smart Kingston. He spoke about the possibility for innovative technologies at the Sewage Treatment Plant and that an engineering firm was yet to be identified. Gregg did mention that the city was applying for a CFA grant to upgrade bulkheads along 2,000 feet of the waterfront. He also mentioned other plans on the city's docket including the Lace Factory –Main Street grant and a UPAC-Heritage Area grant. He offered that Sustainable Hudson Valley could apply to help the city on sustainability issues and would need to register through the Grants Gateway.

v. Governmental Energy Upgrade (*Casey Schwarz*)

Casey updated on rough calculations and research he had done regarding the installation of interior windows for City Hall. He reported that the install cost would be estimated (not accounting for building orientation or building envelope) at \$4,617, for 356 square feet (about 12 windows). He calculated the pay back to be about 3.5-4 years ROI on heating only or even as little as 2-3 years. He also noted the benefits of a window upgrade as comfort (eliminating drafts), some sound reduction (ambulances, fire trucks, etc), and that they are light weight and have simple fasteners. One drawback noted was that the windows may need to be removed and stored during “non-conditioning” periods and also that consideration would need to be made for window shading as this may be limited. There was a discussion about providing weather stripping as a minimum on the windows. It was mentioned that Bob Carey did the original work in 1997 and that the frames are original. Julie will draft a letter to the Mayor recommending that the city upgrade the windows in city hall.

vi. Comprehensive Plan Language Integration

The next Comprehensive Plan meeting would be on June 4th, which is a public meeting. Julie and Gregg, who sit on the Comprehensive Plan committee, have been reviewing the draft plan that was made available only to Committee members. After the meeting on June 4th, there will be a better idea for how Climate Smart Kingston and other interested groups will be able to proceed with making comments.

vii. Climate Action Tracking Online-*Tabled*

Julie will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting date.